REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The claims have been amended as set forth above. Applicants believe that the claims include allowable subject matter. Reconsideration of the claims is respectfully requested.

I. Examiner Interview Dated May 6, 2008

An interview was held on May 6, 2008. During the interview the Specification and Background section of the current application were discussed. An agreement as to allowability of the claims was not reached. Applicants believe that an agreement was reached that the current changes push the application over the current references.

II. Claim Objections

Claim 21 has been objected to as missing an adjective. Claim 21 has been amended as set forth above. Applicants believe that the objection has been overcome.

III. Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claim 2 has been cancelled as set forth above. Applicants believe that the 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, rejection has been overcome.

IV. Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 1-6, 18-23, and 25-31 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,978,791 issued to Farber et al. (hereinafter "Farber") in view of Hewlett-Packard Laboratories. MKPKG. A Software Packaging Tool. USENIX. Dec. 6-11, 1998 by Carl Staelin (hereinafter "Staelin"). Applicants respectfully disagree with the rejection. Independent claim 1 includes the following combination of features that is not taught or otherwise suggested by the cited references:

> creating a manifest file at a first member, the manifest file including an identifier of each of a plurality of resources of a resource group that exists at the first member, ***wherein the manifest file mandates that each of the plurality of resources of the resource group exist on a second member before granting access to any of the plurality of resources of the resource group***;

generating a change order on the first member, wherein the change order includes an indicator that the change order is associated with a manifest file;

transmitting the change order to the second member;

identifying, from the indicator, that the change order is associated with the manifest file;

causing the manifest file to be reproduced at the second member;

in response to the manifest file being reproduced at the second member, beginning a replication operation, wherein the replication operation includes a transfer duration during which each of the plurality of resources of the resource group are received on the second member; and

during the transfer duration:

identifying whether each resource identified in the manifest file exists at the second member by comparing each resource of the resource group identified in the manifest file to a database that identifies resources of the second member;

when each resource of the resource group identified in the manifest file does not exist at the second member, preventing access to all resources of the group identified in the manifest file regardless of whether any resources of the group exists on the second member; and

only when each resource of the resource group identified in the manifest file does exist at the second member, updating the system registry to include all the resources of the resource group.

As one example from the Background of problems associated with prior file replication services, the Background of the specification teaches as follow:

However, FRS does not guarantee the order in which files are duplicated at each computer. ***Files begin replication in sequential order based on when a changed file is closed, but file size and link speed determine the order of completion.*** In many instances, a group of files or data may be interrelated such that a proper functioning of any one file in the group is dependent on all the files existing and being current on a machine. In one example, an application program may include several files that are necessary to run the application. Given the latency of

> replicating all the necessary files, a user may attempt to launch the application before the FRS has had time to fully replicate all the necessary files to the particular computer in the replica set on which the application is being launched. The likely result is that the application would run unreliably or not run at all. Until now, there has been no solution to that problem.

(Background, page 1, lines 12-23). The references do not teach or otherwise suggest the combination of features in independent claim 1. Farber teaches a data processing system for uniquely generating identifiers for data items. The identifiers are associated with a directory so that the data items can be uniquely identified. In Farber, Farber teaches that "true name", "data identity" and "data identifier" refer to the substantially unique data identifier for a particular data item. (Farber, Col. 6, lines 6-8). The term "true file" refers to the actual file, segment or data item identified by a true name. The true directory is simply a directory of the true names that the user can select to access a true file. Farber is not directed to file replication according to a manifest file. Applicants cannot find any teaching whatsoever in Farber of "wherein the manifest file mandates that each of the plurality of resources of the resource group exist on a second member before granting access to any of the plurality of resources of the resource group." Also, applicants can find no teaching or suggestion in Farber of "in response to the manifest file being reproduced at the second member, beginning a replication operation, wherein the replication operation includes a transfer duration during which each of the plurality of resources of the resource group are received on the second member." Moreover, applicants can find no teaching or suggestion in Farber that "during the transfer operation: identifying whether each resource identified in the manifest file exists at the second member by comparing each resource of the resource group identified in the manifest file to a database that identifies resources of the second member; when each resource of the resource group identified in the manifest file does not exist at the second member, preventing access to all resources of the group identified in the manifest file regardless of whether any resources of the group exists on the second member; and only when each resource of the resource group identified in the manifest file does exist at the second member, updating the system registry to include all the resources of the resource group." One of the advantages of the above features of independent claim 1 is that during file transfers, files begin replication in sequential order based on when the changed file is closed, ***but file size***

and link speed determine the order of completion. As indicated in the Background, during replication a user may click on a resource that exists on a second member but depends on a resource that has not fully transferred from the first member. When doing such, the resource that the user selected will not function properly because the dependent resource is not fully transferred to the second member. The above combination of features of independent claim 1 solve this problem because during the transfer duration, access is prevented to all resources of the group identified in the manifest file regardless of whether any resources of the group exist on the second member when each resource of the resource group identified in the manifest file does not exist on the second member. Moreover, applicants can find no teaching or suggestion of these features in Staelin. Accordingly, applicants assert that independent claim 1 is in condition for allowance.

Independent claim 18 includes the following combination of features that is not taught or otherwise suggested by the cited references:

> receiving a change order on a second member, wherein the change order includes an indicator that the change order is associated with a manifest file, ***wherein the manifest file includes an identifier of each of a plurality of resources of a resource group that exists at a first member, wherein the manifest file mandates that each of the plurality of resources of the resource group exist on a second member before granting access to any of the plurality of resources of the resource group;***
>
> identifying, from the indicator, that the change order is associated with the manifest file;
>
> causing the manifest file to be reproduced at the second member;
>
> in response to the manifest file being reproduced at the second member, beginning a replication operation, wherein the replication operation includes a transfer duration during which each of the plurality of resources of the resource group are received on the second member; and
>
> ***during the transfer duration:***
>
> > ***identifying whether each resource identified in the manifest file exists at the second member by comparing each resource of the resource group***

identified in the manifest file to a database that identifies resources of the second member;

when each resource of the resource group identified in the manifest file does not exist at the second member, preventing access to all resources of the group identified in the manifest file regardless of whether any resources of the group exists on the second member; and

when each resource of the resource group identified in the manifest file does exist at the second member, providing access to all the resources of the resource group.

The above combination of features is not taught or otherwise suggested by the cited references. Applicants can find no teaching or suggestion in either Farber or Staelin of a manifest file that includes a plurality of resources of a resource group and that the manifest file mandates that each of the plurality of resources of the resource group exist on a second member before granting access to any of the plurality of resources of the resource group. Also, applicants can find no teaching or suggestion within the cited references of a replication operation that includes a transfer duration and that during the transfer duration access to all of the resources of the group is prevented when each resource of the resource group identified in the manifest file does not exist at the second member. Accordingly, applicants assert that independent claim 18 is in condition for allowance.

Independent claim 25 includes the following combination of features that is not taught or otherwise suggested by the cited references:

a processor; and

a memory having computer-executable instructions configured for:

receiving a change order on a second member, wherein the change order includes an indicator that the change order is associated with a manifest file, ***wherein the manifest file including an identifier of each of a plurality of resources of a resource group that exists at a first member, wherein the manifest file mandates that each of the plurality of resources of the resource group exist on a second member before granting access to any of the plurality of resources of the resource group;***

identifying, from the indicator, that the change order is associated with the manifest file;

causing the manifest file to be reproduced at the second member;

in response to the manifest file being reproduced at the second member, beginning a replication operation, wherein the replication operation includes a transfer duration during which each of the plurality of resources of the resource group are received on the second member; and

during the transfer duration:

identifying whether each resource identified in the manifest file exists at the second member by comparing each resource of the resource group identified in the manifest file to a database that identifies resources of the second member;

when each resource of the resource group identified in the manifest file does not exist at the second member, preventing access to all resources of the group identified in the manifest file regardless of whether any resources of the group exists on the second member; and

when each resource of the resource group identified in the manifest file does exist at the second member, providing access to all the resources of the resource group.

The above combination of features is not taught or otherwise suggested by the cited references. Applicants can find no teaching or suggestion in either Farber or Staelin of a manifest file that includes a plurality of resources of a resource group and that the manifest file mandates that each of the plurality of resources of the resource group exist on a second member before granting access to any of the plurality of resources of the resource group. Also, applicants can find no teaching or suggestion within the cited references of a replication operation that includes a transfer duration and that during the transfer duration access to all of the resources of the group is prevented when each resource of the resource group identified in the manifest file does not exist at the second member.. Accordingly, applicants assert that independent claim 25 is in condition for allowance.

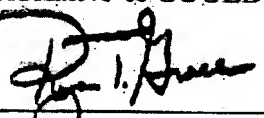
The dependent claims include features that are not taught or otherwise suggested by the cited references. Furthermore, those claims ultimately depend from the independent claims set forth above. As such, they should be found allowable for at least those same reasons.

V. Request for Reconsideration

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, all pending claims are believed to be allowable and the application is in condition for allowance. Therefore, a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested. Should the Examiner have any further issues regarding this application, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned attorney for the applicant at the telephone number provided below.

Respectfully submitted,

MERCHANT & GOULD P.C.



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